

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Interagency Council on Homelessness



Notes from the Meeting of the Interagency Council of Homelessness (ICH)

Date and Time: September 23, 2010 11:00am-12:30pm

Location: 2401 Virginia Avenue NW Washington DC 20037

Approximate Attendance: 87

Welcome and Introductions

Neil Albert, City Administrator, called the meeting to order and then opened the meeting for comments from the public.

Public Comment Period

- A meeting attendee expressed his overall satisfaction with the 2010-2011 Winter Plan that was previously circulated; however, he is concerned that homeless employment was not addressed in the plan.
- There was concern raised about how homeless persons in the District are being treated by Park Police in Langdon Park.
- A meeting attendee expressed his concern about the growing number of homeless persons that are sleeping in the DC National Airport.

ICH Committee Reports

Steering Committee-Scott McNeilly, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless (WLCH)

- Scott McNeilly informed the group that the Steering Committee has been reconfigured to function more like an Executive committee.
- The next Steering Committee is planned for Oct. 27 (Conference Call)
- The Washington Legal Clinic is in the process of posting all of the ICH meetings and subcommittee meetings onto their website (<http://legalclinic.org/ihc2/calendar2.asp>)

Operations and Logistics Committee- Chapman Todd, Catholic Charities

- Chapman Todd informed the group that the Operations and Logistics report is included in with the Winter Plan presentation, which occurs later in the agenda.

Shelter Capacity Subcommittee-Michael Ferrell, Coalition for the Homeless

- Michael Ferrell announced that the Homeless Resource Guide, a one pager of contact information for various services available to homeless persons in the District is complete. Michael asked that each attendee circulate the document to any person that may benefit from it. The document is also posted on the ICH website (http://www.ich.dc.gov/ich/lib/ich/pdf/Homeless_Resource_Sheet_92110_Final.pdf)
- The next scheduled meeting is Oct. 21st 9:30am at SOME (71 N Street NW).

Strategic Planning Committee- Kelly Sweeney-McShane, Community of Hope

- Laura Zeilinger informed the group that a Strategic Planning workshop with an outside consultant took place in July (provided by the National Alliance to End Homelessness). During this meeting, there was discussion around many issues related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as, data and measurements. The meeting report was recently released, and the Strategic Planning committee is focused on reviewing the report.

Youth Subcommittee-Sue Marshall, The Community Partnership

- The Youth Subcommittee is in the initial stages of the development of a document that lays the framework for ending youth homelessness. The group is currently gathering information about current programs that exist for homeless youth in the District.

Health Care Reform Presentation

- Linda Elam from the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) provided the group with information on a new Health Care initiative, here are some highlights:
 - The District is currently in the process of transitioning eligible Alliance customers to Medicaid (effective July 1).
 - This transition allows for better access to prescription drugs, mental health and transportation benefits under Medicaid.
- As part of the initial transfer from the alliance to Medicaid, there are about 3,200 customers that DHS currently serves that must verify their documentation in order to switch over to Medicaid. To date, DHS has verified approximately 400 customers. DHS asked for the assistance of ICH members and service providers with outreach to this population so that their information can be verified and the conversion to Medicaid takes place.

Strategic Action Plan-Update

- Fred Swan of DHS provided information on the implementation of new contracts
 - There are currently six RFPs
 - Management and Oversight
 - Outreach Services (closed)
 - Shelter Hotline (closed)
 - STI/Case Management

- Virginia Williams/DC General
- Individual Assessment Center

Presentation of the 2010-2011 Winter Plan Discussion and Vote

Laura Zeilinger of DHS presented an overview of the 2010-2011 Winter Plan, however the vote on the plan was postponed due to a last minute change in the plan. A special meeting in which the updated plan will be voted on is scheduled for October 26th.

Public Comment Period

- A recently housed meeting attendee expressed her gratitude to all ICH members that assisted her in the process to get housed.
- Another attendee expressed his concern about problems that he is having with person in the CCNV shelter. To remedy this situation, Clarence Carter of DHS instructed the attendee to talk to a DHS employee after the meeting.
- A speaker congratulated DHS for housing 1,000 persons in the PSH program, as well as fixing the leak at John L. Young.